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THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NINETEEN FORTY-SIX

JUN 27 1966
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Pioneer Dwelling, East River Road, North Dumfries

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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KITCHENER, ONTARIO
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1947

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SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Y.M.C.A. building, Kitchener, on the evening of Friday, October 25th. Dr. G. V. Hilborn presided.

Interesting addresses were delivered by Prof. E. Cleghorn of the Department of Fine Arts, Waterloo College, and by A. R. G. Smith of New Hamburg.

The thirty-third annual report issued by the Society was distributed early in 1946.

During the year there has been evidence of increased interest in the Society's work. To stimulate this interest it is proposed to hold one or more meetings in centres other than Kitchener.

This will require considerable planning but it is expected that it will be the means of interesting more people and serve as a help in arranging future programs as well as furnishing new materials for publication.

The Society is constantly looking for material of historical value pertaining to the pioneer settlement of the County and district. Pictures, maps, documents, family histories and records should be preserved and will assist in enriching the precious heritage passed down to us by our ancestors.

The Society is grateful for the continued support received from the larger municipalities by way of grants and for the assistance given by the Kitchener Public Library Board in providing the room to contain our collection and by the Y.M.C.A. for use of the room in which to hold the annual meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1946

Receipts:		
Balance at January 1st, 1946		$337.79
Members' Fees		73.25
Sale of Reports		18.90
Bank Interest		4.92
Grants:		
County of Waterloo	$ 75.00	
City of Kitchener	50.00	
City of Galt	25.00	
Town of Waterlo	15.00	
Town of Hespeler	10.00	
Town of Preston	10.00	
		185.00
		$619.86
Disbursements:		
Binding	$ 35.00	
Printing	6.48	
1945 Report	154.44	
Postage and Stationery	39.90	
Curator and Janitor Services	45.00	
General Expenses	6.60	
Secretary	50.00	
		337.42
Balance		$282.44

Audited and found correct.

E. BREAK, Auditor.

PIONEER DAYS OF THE EAST RIVER ROAD, NORTH DUMFRIES

Andrew W. Taylor B.Sc.A.

This is the story of pioneer days in the area of the East River Road, immediately south of Galt. It is a tale of the lives of men who took part in the early settlement of the Township of North Dumfries.

Of the houses they first built, only traces remain. Almost invariably they consisted of one room with a large open fireplace at one end. There was a loft above reached by means of a ladder. The walls were of unhewn logs, chinked with clay.

There is an almost forgotten story of one couple whose house was just nicely finished, when one day a bear blundered through the open doorway. The wife faced bruin with a poker in her hand. The husband climbed the ladder to direct the battle from the vantage point of the opening above. In telling of the affair later the man gave many vivid details of how "we" drove off the bear. While this story may not do full justice to the bravery of men who came to found homes in the wilderness, it does throw light on the life and humor of the pioneer community.

Early reports indicate that in 1818 there were thirty-eight families settled in the lands of the Honorable William Dickson, known as the Township of Dumfries. In 1816 a start was made on the village that is now the City of Galt. Mr. Dickson's agent was Absalom Shade. The village was known as Shade's Mills. One of the first necessities was to build a mill for the grinding of grain and the sawing of lumber. The Dumfries Mills were started in 1818, and began operation in 1819. They were destroyed in 1914 to make way for the present Galt Armory. All the millwrights employed were Americans, chiefly from New York State. The chief millwright in charge of construction was Thomas Taylor, a native of Balkeith, Scotland. Working with him was his best friend and fellow millwright, John Abbot.

About this time there came to the village two travellers from the Selkirk settlement in the lands of the Hudson Bay Company. The year was probably 1819, the men, John Telfer and Michael Knox. They had been bound for service with the Hudson Bay Company. Tiring of that life, with its Indians and fur-trading, they had taken French leave. They were pursued with dog teams, but by the aid of friendly Indians managed

to elude their pursuers. After several months they arrived at Shade's mill and safety. John Telfer was both intelligent and industrious. Michael Knox was shiftless and addicted to the use of alcohol.

Soon after their arrival Mr. Telfer struck a bargain with the Hon. Wm. Dickson. In return for a section of land south of the village he agreed to visit Selkirkshire, Scotland, to interest families in coming to Dumfries. The farm chosen by Mr. Telfer can roughly be described as lot S 2 E in the 9th Concession. It had 75 rods of river frontage and ran back for a mile from the river. He apparently felt there was hope for Michael Knox for the bargain included a strip for him. It was just to the south of Telfer's and back where the land appeared to be the best, most level, and most easily cleared. It is interesting to note that the laneway that leads to the present Gillespie farm, (W. H. Gillespie, warden of Waterloo County 1946) was originally laid out as the entrance to Michael Knox's place. This was the land which Michael had in mind when years later he asked a doctor to look at his throat. "It is strange that you can see nothing, Doctor," he said. "A logging chain, a yoke of oxen, and a farm, all went down there."

As soon as John Telfer had spoken for his land the two millwrights mentioned above decided to locate permanently, as well. Each took slightly over one hundred acres. Thomas Taylor's lay along the north of John Telfer's. John Abbot's lay along the south. The next strip to the south (from John Abbot's land to the 9th Concession Road) was taken by Archibald McPherson in 1823. The same year Thomas Lockie took up land from Taylor's north to the 10th Concession Road, and also the farm at present owned by the George Leeds estate. In 1825 he turned the latter over to his brother-in-law, John D. Campbell. The other was taken over by David Potter in 1827. All these farms ran from the river for one mile back. Stephen Moffat took the present Tutton farm and land back of Lockie, Taylor, and Telfer in 1824.

It would be interesting to know the exact form of agreement by which this land was reserved. It is said that, in Dumfries, at first the farms were taken by "agreement of sale." It is reasonably certain that Thomas Taylor began clearing his land in 1819. The first document related to the place is dated April 24, 1826, and is a "receipt for payment in full". No deed was drawn until May 3rd, 1830.

When the mill was completed and in operation during the

latter part of 1819 Abbot and Taylor began work on their farms. Perhaps they worked together. At any rate a log house was built on Abbot's land, and then a barn. Later the house was enlarged. Perhaps this was done by the next owner. The barn was taken down about 1907. It stood across the highway from Neil McPherson's present barn. Many of its timbers were used in this more recent structure. In early days it was used to house and flail all the crops of the neighborhood. On Sundays, services of the Associate Church, now called First United, were held in it. The double chimney of John Abbot's house still stands near Stop McPherson on the Lake Erie and Northern Railway. Having built the first barn in the community and a house that stood for many years, as well as having cleared a good part of his land, John Abbot died. He was buried on a hilltop in his bush. In living memory the grave was surrounded by a little picket fence. No trace of it now remains. By 1829 his land had been taken over by James Blake.

While Abbot and Taylor were starting the clearing of their farms, John Telfer's land stood untouched. He had gone to Scotland. His quest for settlers was successful. A good many families located in the township. When he returned he built himself a log house. It stood on the hillside to the west of Gillespie's present barn. It was probably so located because of the spring which used to flow at the foot of the hill there. He began the clearing of his land and at the same time worked the cleared part of Taylor's land. It seems likely that for a time he cropped the Abbot farm as well. It is said that as his settlers from Scotland arrived, practically all of them spent at least their first night in Dumfries in John Abbot's house.

The clearing of Taylor's land was just nicely under way when he was sought out and persuaded to resume his building trade. The records show that he built mills at Queenston and also several in New York State. His detailed plans of construction for these are in the possession of the writer. In 1826 he went back to Scotland, married, and brought his wife to America. In September, 1832, from Wheatland, N.Y., he wrote to his father in Scotland. "I mean to start for Canada in a few days if health is granted. I shall be gone about two weeks. It is 2½ years since I was over. We mean to move to Canada if all is well in the spring and settle down on the farm. We think it will answer much better than moving about so mutch. I will not make so mutch money but we think we will be mutch more comfortable."

It would seem that they moved to Canada immediately on his return from this trip. At the time, the family consisted of his wife and three children. They stayed with John Telfer until a house could be built on the Taylor farm. This was of frame construction with a plastered exterior (stucco). In February, 1835, his brother wrote to him from Scotland. "I am happy to hear you are getting on with your farm so well. You say your stock is small but it would be a long time till as much could be realized in this country". Thomas Taylor was stricken with dysentery. He died on his farm, August 14th, 1845.

When the Taylor family came in, in 1832, Archibald McPherson was living with John Telfer. He moved out to make way for a man who had a wife and children. He immediately set about the building of a log house for himself, and shortly afterwards married Grace Scrimger. The chimney of his original log house later had a stone building placed around it. It still stands close by the big stone house he afterwards built for himself and his family. It is interesting that for this latter house, the entire front wall was built of rock cut from one huge boulder that was found on the farm.

Years later, when telling of their first adventures, Mrs. McPherson recalled that in the beginning they had very few furnishings. For chairs they had only a block of wood with a board across it. If both were to sit, it meant one on each end of the board. It was a matter that required co-operation. To light the fire they used a flint-lock. It was an American army musket from the war of 1812-14.

When he was getting the farm nicely into operation Mr. McPherson's father gave him some cattle and a flock of sheep. With the aid of his brother-in-law, he undertook to drive these from Caledonia, N.Y., to Dumfries. Either kind of livestock alone would have presented few difficulties, but sheep and cattle each have a different rate of travel. Although the trip was successfully completed, both men vowed that never again would they embark on such an undertaking. Archibald McPherson died February 11th, 1895,aged 93 years.

John Telfer's wife was Ellen McKenzie. They had several children. For a number of years he continued to live on the farm and took an active interest in community organizations. About 1840 he relinquished his holdings at Galt and became the agent for the settlement of the Sydenham Tract at Owen

Sound. His youngest son, Peter Telfer, was a lake-boat captain. This son was buried at Owen Sound in January, 1936.

Much more could be written of the history of this area. The land still supports a prosperous agriculture. The farms south of Galt bear the stamp of these men who laid out their boundaries. One final thing should be mentioned. The first fences give a clue to the original forest cover. They were almost entirely of cedar rails cut from swamps along the river. The story goes that on the higher land, east of the Canadian National Railway, there was very little big timber. Most of the land was covered with shrubbery not more than 15 feet tall. Stump fences were built close to where there were clumps of white pine, but in a general way the land was not heavily wooded. There is some evidence to indicate that some years previous to the beginning of settlement the area had been denuded by a forest fire.

The letters which follow were written by John Telfer. They are self-explanatory.

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Millwright,
Medina Ridgway,
State of New York.

Dumfries,
April 21, 1829.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter two days ago and was sorry you had wrote before you got mine. I wrote to you on the first of April and would have wrote soner but I wanted to have the wheat all threshed and James Blake wanted to thresh it and I put off till I seed he could not do it oing to having so many rails to hall across the river. The winter was hard and we cut trees down into the river and stopped the ice so that it froze so that he got them all across and then he could not do it and I had to get James Govenlock to do it and Archibald McPherson had a right to the barn so that we had to take it in turns. The rails is all hauled and the fence put up. The wheat is looking well. I thought it would be hurt with the frost but it is not. There was very little snow here but down at Hamilton it was about two feet and at that time it did not fall half an inch here. My wheat, I threshed the last of it last week and it has turned very bad out. I have only 22½ bushels and nary to sell this year more than served ourselves. The wheat that I had on the flats I threshed 65 stoks and had only 13 bushels and it was only still wheat. Yours has turned out short of my expectation. Blake's

turned out middling well but not to expectation. John McKenzie's did not turn out well. It was about the same set as yours, about seventeen sheaves to the bushel but having such a quantity of it he will be able to pay his farm this year. Your field that the wheat was in I think it will be best to sow it with oats and sumer fallow next sumer for wheat as you will be likely to seed it down and to take a spring crop off it will rot it better as the plains take some time to rot before they are seeded down — or it would do to sumer fallow this sumer and sow wheat and seed down with spring crop. We talked of me putting it in on shares last time you was here at the country rules but write me which way you want it and I will do it. Write as soon as possible as the time is drawing ni for ploughing for spring crops. James Blake is carrying on the farm but he is a little thoughtless not being used to such work. We are all well hoping this will find you the same.

Your well wisher

I expect you would get
the letter two days
after you wrote.

JOHN TELFER.

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Millwright,
Batavia,
State of New York.

Dumfries,
March 8, 1830.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter last post. Was happy to hear that you was all well. You say you have had no letter this some time. I have sent two since I had any but it seems you have not got them. I sent one to Quenston with James Blake and about a month ago I was in Niagara I sent another. We are all in good health at present thank God for it but when I wrote you the first letter our children was verry sick. We are driving on about the old way but the drought set in on some of us that some has very light crops and some in Waterloo did not harvest theirs. Mine was hardly worth harvesten. You talk of planting fruit trees. I think it is a good noshen. I planted 25 trees last spring and intent to plant 40 or 50 this spring. I am sorry I did not plant shoner. Thomas Moffet planted after we came here and has apples now. The trees are always coming on. With respeck to the farm I think the first field ought to be sumer fallowed and the other put into oats or both sumer fallowed. I wrote to you that I would take them other for so much on the share but if you are coming in it will be better and then we can see better about them. The wheat is mostly

threshed. I think the fruit trees you should not negleck. I think there is no use writing any more as you are coming in.

Your Well Wisher,
JOHN TELFER.

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Millwright,
Batavia,
State New York.

Dumfries,
August 11, 1830.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter and was sorry to hear that you was dissapointed of your papers. It was not my falt. I went to Dundas three days after you went away and it was three days too soon. I left word with Stevens to get them and send them to Mr. Thorburn and he forgot to do it so when I got your letter I wrote to Dundas and Duran sent them to me last mail. I inclose them and send them along with this letter to the care of Mr. Thorburn. My harvest is over and I am busy preparing for wheat. Your field by the road is all plowed and harrowed a month ago and on Mundav I will start on it with the seed fur we have had a very wet sumer which is some against the sumer fallow oing to so much grass groing on them. I laid my field open to cattle to get to them but I think I will have to plough some of the first ploughed three times oing to the grass both on yours and mine. As to the plains I was to brake I never intended to begin till after wheat was sowed. It was the understanding when you was here. Your wheats all be soed in good seson if God spare me life and health. We are all well at present hoping this will find you in the same.

Your well wisher,
JOHN TELFER.

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Millwright,
Wheatland, Munroe County,
State of New York.

Dumfries,
August 28, 1832.

Dear Sir:

My being so long in writing you was on expecting that you was coming in which I suppose the colera is the ocasion of you not coming at this time as it has put a great stop to business in this country. The marchents has got no goods up yet only those that got their spring goods early. It is very bad in York. It was bad in Hamilton and still some of it yet and Dundas and Flambrow. Some deaths has taken place in Beverly and one in Dumfries but it has put shuch a terror in peoples minds that they

dare not go to Dundas but by appearance it will rage through the province. I have sold the flour at four dollars per barrel, lower than we could had for wheat in the winter. I wrote to John Blake in York to see the price there. He wrote it was half a dollar dearer there. I took J. McKenzie's, T. Moffit's, Stephen Moffit's, yours and mine the receits to try to sell it in York, but when I arrived in York they had received letters from Mountreal not to pay so much so that I could only get 4 dollars and they would not give that unless I would warrant it to stand inspection in Mountreal so I returned next day to Dundas and sold at 4 the hiest price bin this year. Some went at 3½. You had B/200 -B/2 -48 lbs. of wheat. The wheat is very thin on the ground this year. Hay uncommon light. We had the hardest drought I ever saw in the country. Some had half of their sumer fallow to plough after harvest. Oats is about half a crop. Potatoes is taking a second growth. I could not get any person to brake plains this sumer. They take no less than four dollars to brake plains. My brother-in-law W. McKenzie says he will brake 15 or 20 acres if he got begun now but I did not like to make a bargain till I saw you. If you think of doing it you will write directly as there is no time to lose. James Blake is going to York to stay with John. I have rented the farm.

Yours,
J. TELFER.

* * *

"THE BEAUTY OF WATERLOO COUNTY"

By Edward Cleghorn
Dept. of Fine Art, Waterloo College, Waterloo.

In this consideration of the beauty of Waterloo County I shall not dwell upon the acknowledged beauty spots such as those so often publicized. There are a great many such spots but older residents know them better than I. I should like to bring to your attention the beauty I see here in the everyday things of life, — things that are often passed by unseen because they are so commonplace.

Waterloo County is beautiful, and much of its charm is peculiar to itself. It has certain characteristics which are not found in other counties or in other parts of Canada. While sketching with other artists in various parts of the county I have noted features which are typical of the landscape and of the people. And I find here contrasts which give individuality and beauty to the scene.

Waterloo County has a rolling landscape. That in itself is a background for beauty. There are hills and dales on every Waterloo farm. But there are lofty elevations too, the Doon Pinnacle, Chicopee Heights and the three Baden hills, conical in shape, to give variety to the landscape.

An interesting feature of the county landscapes is found in the many cedar-rail fences which form an irregular cross-stitch in the patchwork quilt of emerald pastures and brown ploughed-fields. There are even a few stump-fences, relics of pioneer days and a reminder of the monarchs of the primeval forests.

The trees in our county of today are extremely beautiful. Where is there a more wonderful stand of trees than those of the Homer Watson Memorial Park, known to many as Cressman's Woods The tall branches meet overhead like the arches of a vast cathedral, silent and magnificent. When the Earl of Athlone attended the Waterloo Agricultural Fair a few years ago, he remarked that this county reminded him of England. He knew that the people here loved trees, since they had spared so many of them from the woodman's indiscriminating axe. This, he added, could not be said of many parts of Canada.

The architecture of the county is another distinctive feature. Here the older buildings seem to be a part of the natural landscape. They are too, for they were built of the stones and the clay and the lumber of Waterloo. The solid farm buildings of stone and yellow brick give a feeling of stability and the yellow-painted floors and white-washed porches of the houses are distinctive. The enormous, well-built barns are indicative of the industry and prosperity of the farmers. The residences and public buildings of the towns and cities of this county are above the average, and they give an impression of security, thrift and love of home.

In the northern parts of the county may be seen, especially on a Sunday, the sombre Mennonite carriage as it ambles slowly along the country road. Behind comes an automobile, 1947 model, built for speed. The motorist toots his horn. He has no patience with the slow-moving conveyance of a century ago. So remarkable a contrast can be found only in Waterloo.

Waterloo County owes much of its beauty to the Grand River. In its smooth surface are mirrored church spires and factory chimneys, willow trees, grazing cattle and the wind-

blown clouds in the blue skies above. These are all part and parcel of our county. They recall the story of the pioneer past as interpreted in the words of Mabel Dunham.

Industry and thrift are characteristic of the people of Waterloo County. Did you ever watch the valuating eyes of the city housewife as she prices a chicken at the market? Did you ever notice the wholesome Mennonite girl behind the counter as she scoops out an exact measure of soft cheese? There is beauty in her blue apron, her white kitchen spoon, her red hands. Her gentle features are framed by her black bonnet. Where would you find these things except in Waterloo County?

Besides thrift and industry the people of Waterloo have an inherited pioneer patience which is little short of persistence. Small boys will fish for hours in little streams and pools where no fish are likely to be found. A few weeks ago my young son asked me to take him fishing. We sat on a bridge over a stream and began to fish. After jiggling his line for ten short minutes he said, "There are no fish here. Let's go somewhere else." He has some Waterloo County blood in his veins, but he has also some Scottish blood. Scotsmen like quick returns for their efforts. Another small boy, sat near us on the bridge. He had a look of determination on his face as he held his fishing pole.

"Any luck?" I asked.

"Not yet," said the boy.

"Been here long?"

"Two hours," he replied.

"What's your name?"

"Shantz," he said.

I didn't ask any more questions.

The mill races at St. Jacobs and Conestogo are reminiscent of Holland and Belgium. But they have a distinctive local setting with high ground on one side and a dike and willow trees on the other. In the early winter when the surface of the canal is frozen and children skate up and down, the scene seems to be a seventeenth century Dutch painting come to life.

These are a few of the less publicized beauties of Waterloo County. By beauty I mean something that has character and significance as opposed to the trivial, the sentimental or the

pretty. In fine art, truth and beauty are the same thing. Truth is not necessarily sweet; it is often bitter. Beauty too often has a trace of vinegar in it. The artist, like the philosopher, looks for truth, and truth is so modest and so shy that she will not give herself entirely to one poet or to one artist.

Homer Watson was the greatest artist of Waterloo County, but even he, for all his intimate understanding and love for Waterloo County, could not fully express all that he felt, nor could anyone else in the short span of a lifetime. He revealed a great deal to us but he did it to some extent in the European manner. His work would indicate that he had made a close study of the works of John Constable and Theodore Rousseau.

A Canadian way of portraying the Canadian scene was formulated by a younger generation of artists, the "Group of Seven." This was the first important group of Canadian painters to struggle with a media that would more fully express the spirit of the Canadian scene.

Latterly Homer Watson recognized the possibilities of this new approach, this new vocabulary with a strong Canadian accent, this way of seeing clearly and boldly with pure eyesight and uninhibited ideas. Away from the decadent European techniques and formulas, away from an art that was beginning to survive only in hothouses.

The Canadian artist is often a woodsman as well as a painter. He does not need absinthe or cognac to isolate himself; he can isolate himself, if need be, in the forests of Northern Ontario, the spiritual birthplace of Canadian painting. The Canadian painter may be rugged in appearance, but his heart is sensitive. His work shows the delicate touch of the violin but it has at the same time some of the qualities of the bass drum. It is not truly Canadian unless it has the virility and strength of something young.

Homer Watson's later work shows his earnest attempt to throw aside his earlier European methods and to start afresh. Many have felt that his late work was incompetent, but artists think his last works are among his best. He felt that the beauty of this country was waiting to be revealed and he gave his whole life in a search for that beauty and in an effort to express it. He did what he could to open the way to artistic expression for future generations.

A few weeks ago I went to Doon, not to sketch, but to try to pick up some of the threads he left. I looked at many of the scenes his eyes had looked upon and I realized that he had lifted those scenes out of the ordinary and shrouded them with immortality. I could see his bold, diagonal brush strokes in the willow trees as they yielded to the wind. I am thinking of his "Flood Gate," which is considered his masterpiece.

Waterloo County has a vigorous group of living painters who are striving to point out and to portray new aspects of its beauty. There is another creative group who use the camera as a medium. But whether by brush or by camera, these modern artists are trying to tell us that Waterloo County abounds in beauty and that its beauty is not confined to half a dozen obvious beauty spots. Local artists and poets and authors should have our enthusiastic support. They have done much and will do more for Waterloo County. France is not particularly beautiful but its artists have made it so. The castles, the inns and the dwellings of old England are enhanced by the descriptions of Scott, Dickens and Jane Austen. The portraits of Rembrandt live not because he painted the faces of the Dutch people but because he painted their thoughts, their personalities, their hearts.

* * *

REMINISCENCES OF THE WEST MONTROSE CHURCH

As narrated by Mr. C. D. Bowman at the church reunion Sept. 8th, 1946

I have not been called upon to make a speech so much as to give you some information regarding the early history of the West Montrose Church. I am indebted to the Mager Sisters and Mrs. J. H. Shepherd, formerly of Bloomingdale, and to Mrs. J. E. Lynn, for some data herein.

I think you will agree with me that the church building is not necessarily the Church, but more particularly the Christian men and women assembling for worship, so I purpose to include in these reminiscences many names of men and women of the early days as well as the Pastors who served the Church from the beginning to the present time.

In the year 1857 my parents moved to this community and I was born in April of that year, and evidently I have no first hand information of the Church life here at that date. My sister, Mrs. J. E. Lynn, who is four years my senior, remembers at-

tending preaching service in a blacksmith shop owned by Jacob Benner, located on the property now owned by Sylvester Gingrich (near the present dwelling). Rev. Mr. Downey, a minister of the United Brethren Church in the United States, was Pastor at the time when these services were being held in the blacksmith's shop, and also about that time the first United Brethren members were organized. In the year 1862 or 1863, the first United Brethren Church building was erected, and dedicated by Bishop Glossbrenner of the United Brethren Church in the United States.

In the year 1906 or 1907 the United Brethren Churches in Canada joined with the Congregational Churches in Canada, and were thereafter known as "The United Brethren Association of Congregational Churches," and about the same time (1907) the present brick building was erected. The present location of this church is a little south of the old church (traces of the foundations still remain in the ground between the church and shed) and consequently an extra strip of land was purchased along the southerly side of the original site. This particular edifice was dedicated by the Rev. Mr. Unsworth of Hamilton, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Schofield, who has just recently passed over. 18 years later in 1925, this church together with the other churches of the Congregational Union, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church in Canada joined to form "The United Church of Canada."

Among the lay members of the early United Brethren Church were Elisha Hewitt and wife, Milton Woodward and wife, Jacob Benner and wife, Noah Bowman and wife, Kushman Smith and a few others whose names I do not remember.

Association of this Church with other Churches: Circuits: 1. Kitchener, Freeport, Bloomingdale, Hawkesville, West Montrose. 2. Zion, Bloomingdale, West Montrose. 3. Elmira, Conestogo, West Montrose.

Ministers of the Gospel who served these charges: Reverends Downey, Plowman, D. B. Sherk, A. Sherk, Houseman, Mager, Durkee, Bachus Brothers, Showers, Ibott, Geach, Walker, Piart, Williams, Krouth, Newbery, Fairbairn, Rott, Glendinning, Stewart, Fosbuary, Thompson.

Lay preachers of the past: Jacob Bowman, farmer, Freeport: I. L. Bowman, teacher, Berlin; Robert Boal, teacher, West Montrose.

The early church members were made up of a number of former members of other denominations, (Methodists, Mennonites, Baptists, etc.) and I believe that spirit of Christian unity prevails in our midst today, and that it is desirable that the churches should be as our dear Lord and Saviour directed — "That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, are in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us." And I hope that this church body will continue in that broader vision of a true, friendly uniting Christian Church and thus attract many others to her communion.

* * *

WEST MONTROSE AND DISTRICT

A. W. Devitt

It was in the year 1879, that my father, the late Moses Devitt, moved to this section. I was 14 years old at that time and had completed my Public School education in passing my Entrance and Sixth Form, which was equal to one year High School. But after residing there, I attended school in the winter months along with some other big boys from 16 to 18 years of age, to review our former studies, as well as playing football and shinny. At the present double stone school-house (built in 1874), we used to climb the board fence, cut down little beech saplings, shaped like hockey sticks and many a time limped home with sore shins.

To give a history of the earliest settlers in and around West Montrose and the happenings of that time is not too easy. When coming to West Montrose 67 years ago, I knew the oldest residents here at that time, but they were not the first owners. Some farms remained in the same family but others did not. The earliest settler bought land here in 1807.

In order to get the date of the coming of the first settlers, I went to the Kitchener Registry Office and was accorded every courtesy by Dr. Hilborn, the Registrar, and the privilege to investigate. The files show that Block (3) consisting of 86.078 acres, on the Grand River, was sold to Wm. Wallace on Feb. 5th, 1798. Mr. Wallace sold from Block (3) 45.195 acres on July 24, 1807, to Augustus Jones, John Erb and Jacob Erb.

All the earliest settlers in Block 3 bought from Augustus Jones and Jacob and John Erb. Those who followed the Grand River in this block and settled in the West Montrose and Winterbourne district were mostly Scotch and English.

I copied from the files the names of those who were the earliest settlers on the Noah Bowman farm, (father of C. D. Bowman).

In 1808 Augustus Jones, John Erb and Jacob Erb sold to Daniel Bowman 360 acres. Heirs of Daniel Bowman sold this parcel of land to John Wissler in 1843. In 1849 John Wissler sold to Jonathan B. Bowman. Jonathan Bowman then sold to Noah Bowman in 1851. In 1862 Jonathan Bowman sold 170 acres to Noah Bowman, the farm that later belonged to C. D. Bowman.

I was asked to give you a little history of the West Montrose "Covered Bridge." It was built in 1881. It is 200 ft. in length, 17 ft. wide, inside measurement. It has the finest timber, nearly all pine with the exception of the floor, which consists of strong oak planks. A caretaker lights an oil lamp every evening so traffic can see; but it is even somewhat dark in the daytime owing to lack of windows. In the horse and buggy days it was called Kissing Bridge, because, owing to the absence of windows, many a swain could not resist the temptation. The cost to build was $3,179.50 and was built by Baer Bros. of Doon. While a new highway is proposed to be built from the Elmira Highway to Zuber's Corners, no definite route has been decided upon. It is almost certain, however, that it will come through near the church. In any event, a new bridge will have to be built at another location up the river, but the covered bridge will be needed by the residents of the village. It has the second abutments of stone, replacing the first wooden abutments. I have not the least doubt that in the future West Montrose will become a summer resort for many people who, for a few months during the hot summer, want to get away from the city to live a quiet life. I would urge those who own land along the river bank to preserve the timber, as well as do more planting of trees, for future beauty.

Some 70 years ago, fine Shorthorn herds were established and owned by Scotch farmers. Among these farmers were the Lowells, Mackies and Burnetts. And we must not forget Vietch who owned a small herd. A few of our oldest residents remember his Shorthorn ox and horse which he both harnessed and worked together.

In the earliest days, while no railroad was nearer than Elora and Kitchener, our cattle feeders who furnished steers for the British market, had to drive from 10 to 15 miles. They

would leave home before daylight and upon arrival, had to have them stand among 400 or 500 assembled cattle and after 4 or 5 hours have them weighed. The price at that time was 4½ to 5 cents per lb. live weight. At present, with better railroad connections and truck service, very few cattle are driven on the road.

West Montrose always has had a good general store, where you could buy all your needs and bring your butter and eggs, or other produce, and exchange them for your family wants. The store was also a very convenient place to which to come in the evening to buy a few things and sit around to discuss politics, any farm topics or news in general.

The first store was located at the home across the river, now owned by George Letson, who used the former store for a woodshed. The owner's name was possibly Mr. J. B. Kilbourne, who was also postmaster of the village when the Post Office was first established on the 1st of March, 1856. There seems to be no record why the name West Montrose was chosen.

Afterwards, the second store located on the west side of the river, where the Post Office is now. Numerous merchants did business there until the present store was built, where Mr. S. Gingrich is operating a most successful general store to serve this community.

Jacob Benner, (born in 1807)—who at one time owned nearly all the land in and surrounding Montrose, resided on the farm lately owned by Byron Letson. In 1855 he sold 101 acres to John Milton Woodward and later he sold the farms where J. P. Snider and Lincoln Martin lived. Then he offered the land on the east side of the river free in lots to anyone who wished to build. Mr. Benner also operated a woollen mill in West Montrose until 1874.

He was a great hunter in his prime and had a bosom friend named Conrad Stroh, who bought from the Crown the farm owned by the late Chas Winfield, who also was a great hunter. One day, while hunting together, they did not see any game worth while shooting. To unload their guns they put a mark on a tree and both shot at that mark. After investigating they found only one bullet hole and each claimed the other missed and they parted bad friends. Benner afterwards investigated; took his axe, chopped into the tree where the bullet hole was and found both bullets in the same place, and he and Mr. Stroh

were the best of friends afterwards. Mr. Benner died in 1890 at the age of 83.

Montrose at one time had a sawmill on Lot 71. The last operator was Emanuel Grukel who moved to Owen Sound in 1873.

The first school to which the children of this locality had access was one mile west of Montrose in a stone building erected for a school, where the children of the district surrounding it, got their education until 1865 when a new school was built. Owing to dampness when the river overflowed in the spring, and for other reasons, the present double school was built and opened in 1874 at Zuber's Corners. After the first stone school was closed in 1865 it was sold to Philip Richert. He made a residence of it and lived there until he died. Mr. Richert was a very useful man to his community. He had a cooper shop, was a mason and a carpenter as well as a blacksmith and anyone wanting to put up a building would get Mr. Richert, who was able to start and finish it.

Montrose has good railroad connections with the C.P.R. station only a half mile from the village. We have surrounding the village a prosperous farming community who make use of this station to ship not only large quantities of live stock, but for many years, and it yet is, a great turnip shipping centre.

The C.P.R. was opened 40 years ago. Col. McRea of Guelph was appointed by the company to buy the right of way. A Mr. Pigott of Hamilton was the contractor. Mr. George Hyde was the engineer who made the surveys.

The country around West Montrose was at one time a great sheep-raising centre. In the spring, farmers brought their sheep to the river at West Montrose. There was a big hole in the river about 40 rods north of the covered bridge and sometimes a few hundred were assembled by each owner to take their turn. They had a great pen made with cedar rails right on the bank of the river, and took the sheep in, one by one, and kept them in the river until they were clean.

The barn on the farm of the Summers, formerly owned by Byron Letson, located in the village, to store the products of the 240-acre farm, is no doubt the largest square barn in the County of Waterloo, its dimensions being 100 ft. long and 80 ft. wide.

The farm owned by Mr. Rhodes Letson has the distinction of having had six generations reside thereon, viz. his grand-

father and father, himself, his daughter, grandson, and great-granddaughter. The last four mentioned have recently been there together.

In looking over some records I found that Captain Thomas Smith was one of the first settlers in this district. In 1807 he came from Vermont, U.S., with a wife and three children, and his fourth child, Priscilla, was the first white child born in Woolwich. After looking around he settled just out of Conestogo on the bend along the river. Edward Smith who lived in this village was supposed to be a nephew.

Montrose can be proud of the young men who were raised and received their education here, and went to other parts, as well as those who stayed here and were successful. Allow me to mention a few, some of whom you will remember: Chas. Dengis, who operated a shoe repair shop here, has two of his sons Evangelical ministers, viz, Rev. J. B. Dengis of Stratford and Rev. W. B. Dengis of Buffalo, N.Y. Mr. Gallagher, merchant in Montrose, also has two sons ministers, viz. Rev. James W. Gallagher, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches in Canada and Rev. David H. Gallagher, minister of Runnymede United Church, Toronto.

We have a home boy, viz. Mr. C. D. Bowman, the oldest active Public Land Surveyor in Ontario, if not in Canada, and Mr. Joseph Woods, Manager of Waterloo Farmers Mutual, the oldest active manager in Canada.

Last, but not least, was when the call came to appoint a County Assessor. After looking over the County for the most capable man, the choice fell on Mr. J. P. Snider, who has at present, an office in the Court House in Kitchener. I could mention more who were Public and High School students. Our young men and women as well, are making good use of educational facilities. Some are attending Universities, studying for the ministry, or, are through Normal School and are teachers.

We have at present 14 scholars at Montrose who are attending the Elmira High School.

* * *

PIONEER SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHWEST WILMOT

A. R. G. Smith

That part of Wilmot Township in the County of Waterloo, known locally as "Southwest Wilmot," is bounded on the south

by a part of Oxford County and on the northwestern part by the County of Perth.

This southwestern part of Wilmot Township was settled by our pioneers after the land had been occupied nearer to the Huron Road, which was built from Hamilton to Goderich for immigration, about the year 1830. This road was a main road as our King's Highways are now but of course it was not paved.

Lateral roads connecting with the Huron Road, on which the four-horse stage coach carried the mail, passengers and small parcels, were built to accommodate those who took up land on which, as one pioneer told me, there was not a stick of timber as big as your finger cut by a white man. Only the Indians went about on this land. They were very careful to kill game for food only, and were certainly conservationists as they used only the fallen limbs for fuel. Time, however, changed the situation and the land that grew such abundant forests was found capable of growing abundant field crops.

Naturally the land was taken up slowly by the pioneers who came with their families to this part of the township, where they settled. I have been told that some of the companies who were interested in selling the land had novel methods of inducing the people in England, for instance, to migrate to what was known as Upper Canada. The Province of Quebec was known as Lower Canada. I have here a book written by Edwin C. Guillett, M.A., "Tales of Pioneer Life." In it are reproductions of the pictures which were once in our pioneer collection which was unfortunately destroyed by fire. They are well worth looking at, as they were used by one land selling company to promote an interest in the land which included Southwest Wilmot.

1st: The shanty in the bush, which shows a log cabin, a yoke of oxen and a log shanty, a log across the stream.

2nd: Fifteen years after, when the mother and colt (grey messenger) appear. The log bridge, rail fences, a log house and some field crops.

3rd: Thirty years after settlement, when the rail fences were superseded by the straight sawn board fence, the log building by the frame barn, and the log house by the frame house and evergreen trees surrounding it, the water of the small stream harnessed and used for power for an upright saw to cut timber.

These pictures show in a very practical way what happened in Southwest Wilmot.

Under the care and practical development of our pioneers, who in many instances are buried in our local cemeteries, St. James, Bethel, Pine Hill and Biehns Church and near Haysville South, the community flourished.

The pioneers were axe men and cleared the land of its splendid timber mostly by burning it and then with the aid of an "A" harrow, an implement made of oak perhaps six inches thick and fashioned in the shape of a capital A with iron spikes eight inches long and an inch square. The land was cultivated between the stumps for grain crops of spring wheat, barley, oats and peas. You will please remember that our pioneers grew spring wheat (wheat sown in the spring time). No farmer in Waterloo County grows spring wheat now, all our wheat being sown in the fall, usually before September 1st. The crops of wheat, barley and oats were harvested with the cradle and peas with the scythe, bound by hand and threshed by the flail. We were unable to bring samples of these implements but they were in operation for many years and some of us think we could still cradle and bind and use a flail without banging ourselves on the head with the swinging bar that removed the grain. Wheat of course was grown for flour, barley, if roasted, makes a good substitute for coffee and peas, good soup. The pioneers were not bothered with pea weevil, which in later years made the growing of peas impossible. Oats were used for oatmeal. Barley, for soup, had the husks removed by a somewhat tedious process of adding small amounts of water to barley in a crucible and then worked as a druggist works his mortar and pestle.

The process of clearing this land took a lot of time and patience but as time went on clearings were made and fortunately natural grass soon covered these for pastures for the cattle. The deer which in 1840 and thereabouts were as plentiful as sheep are now also enjoyed the pastures. Our people had to go to Hamilton for salt which was much liked by the deer and gave our people a chance to get some and have some good meat.

The first duty of our pioneers was to make a small clearing on which to erect their shanty. This was usually done by the settler and his wife. Any tree that might fall on the shanty was cut down and a cabin erected, usually of logs. The bake kettle was swung between stumps and a fire kindled beneath it. One

Invite your friends to join the Waterloo Historical Society.

Help to extend its membership over the County and district.

Historical material is carefully preserved in the Museum.

of our pioneer women said that the first kettle with which she attempted to bake was going nicely when a violent thunder storm and rain came up. After the storm was over, the kettle was filled with water, the baking was spoiled, the fire was out and she for the first time in her new home wept for she realized as never before that she was a stranger in a strange land.

The pioneers had to be very resourceful. One of them could do a splendid job of tanning hides and making boots and leather shoes for his family. The lasts he used were in our collection. He also had a hand loom on which the yarn made from the wool of the few sheep they owned was woven into cloth. The cloth was not perhaps as fine in quality as we have it nowadays but it was very substantial.

You might be interested in the story of how some of these pioneers got to Southwest Wilmot. May I tell you of one who was a native of Prince Edward Island?

In Prince Edward Island in 1820 and for years before and for some years later you could not be a freeholder. Seignorial tenure allowed you to have land as a tenant but you could not own your own land. This pioneer wanted to be a freeholder. As a ship carpenter he started out in the late fall of 1835 to visit Upper Canada in which he had heard there was moderately priced land and an abundance of timber for building. Accordingly in the late fall of 1835 he left his home in Margate, P.E. Island, and expected to take the last boat from Shediac to Montreal. When he arrived at Shediac he found navigation had closed quite early. That put an end to that plan but he found there a man, Doctor Douglas, the quarantine doctor of the Province of Quebec, who wanted very badly to get home, but he was stranded. The two decided they would try the overland journey on snowshoes. They hired an Indian guide to take them over the Restigouche Mountains and had an eventful journey. There was lots of woodland and at night they would dig a hole in the snow, build a fire and slumber as best they could. The Indian guide snored all night but the doctor did not fare so well.

When they reached civilization they had their first meal at a Frenchman's tavern. He asked them if they would eat with their Indian guide. "Well," said the doctor, "we lost our cup the first day of our journey. We have all enjoyed the coffee out of the same coffee pot spout since we lost our cup and we will all eat together." This pioneer, after leaving Dr. Douglas at his destination, continued his journey via Hamilton up the Huron

Road to Southwest Wilmot and travelled in all a distance of 1010 miles on snowshoes. A recent editorial in the Globe and Mail reminded me of this pioneer's respect for church spires. They were told that whenever they saw a church spire they should try to reach the locality for nearby they would find lodging and food in a public house.

He spent the winter in Southwest Wilmot and in the Pine Hill District where he hewed the frames from the splendid white pine for three barns. When he would return to his work in the winter mornings, the snow would be packed on the squared timbers by the wolves running along it during the night. It is singular but it is true that the frames as he hewed them are still in barns improved and enlarged on the sites where they were raised. None of them has been destroyed by fire. On the farm opposite S.S. No. 5 Wilmot will be found four pieces of pine, each sixty feet long and cut from one tree by a whip saw now in the pioneer collection of the New Hamburg School. The pioneer brought the tree for four shillings. He arranged piles of brush on which he dropped it. This tree was felled by an axe. It was squared and hauled by three yoke of oxen as a piece of square timber sixty feet long to where it was sawn in four pieces lengthwise.

If you take a little trip to the cemeteries I have mentioned you will find many interesting inscriptions on the marble and granite monuments of our pioneers. At St. James' Church, Wilmot, three miles west of Haysville, is a marble slab to the memory of one of our pioneers from Devonshire. He was the first Free Mason of our community. He belonged to the same Masonic lodge as Robert Burns. He was a malster at Glasgow and his epitaph is carved on a representation of a Masonic apron with many emblems understood by members of the Masonic craft. He lived in an adobe clay house on a farm east of Haysville.

There were many activities among our pioneers as time went on. Haysville was a trading centre. It was a post for changing horses for the four-horse stage coach. Hobson's hotel had stabling for 125 horses. This stable was in use when the pioneers of the Huron Tract brought their wheat via the Huron Road to market it at Hamilton and later to Goldies at Ayr. When the movement of the wheat began the hotel would be crowded at night and the drivers would sometimes have to sleep on the hotel floor. It was said that Hobson would always take a walk

among his guests to see if they required anything before he retired. He always told them to be as comfortable as possible under the circumstances and if any of them became ill during the night to step into the hotel bar and help himself to a sip of whiskey, as there was lots of it. Incidentally the hotel keeper Hobson was a relative of the engineer Hobson who supervised the construction of the St. Clair-Port Huron railway tunnel.

Religious development was not neglected by our Southwest Wilmot pioneers. Early missionaries held services. S.S. No. 5, 3 miles straight west of Haysville opposite St. James' Anglican Church, was built as a combined chapel and school and the half-acre of ground surrounding it was the cemetery. In 1854 St. James' Anglican Church was built on three acres of land donated by the Canada Land Company. There were rivalries as the Methodists had two churches. As you travel south from New Hamburg towards Bright you will see on the southeast corner of the farm of Amos Good two large Lombardy poplar trees. They alone remain as guardians of the spot where once was a place of worship called Mount Carmel. The congregation however merged with the Methodist Church further west, known as Bethel. The church was moved to Haysville, and later sold to the Anglicans and is now Christ Church, Haysville.

In Haysville there is the Haysville Hall which was built by our pioneers to have what we would call nowadays a community hall. Many meetings have been held in that hall and in the early days were well attended. Lectures were given on such subjects as phrenology, temperance, and many scientific subjects. Before the days of electricity, of course, the hall was lighted with coal-oil. At political meetings representatives of at least two parties took part in the debates. Early literary societies and debating clubs have served a useful purpose. Early revival meetings were held. Paddy Darrington, who was asked by my grandfather Collum, who was also Irish, if he would like to attend a revival meeting which was to be held in Haysville for the good of his soul, tearfully, replied that he would be only too pleased to attend but he had nothing to contribute to the collection. Well, my grandfather said he would arrange that and Paddy immediately suggested that he would advance a goodly amount and take it off his wages. He did feel that he should give generously. My grandfather, knowing Paddy's habits, took the precaution to have Paddy comfortably seated in the meeting house before he gave him the substantial contribution. During the singing of one of the good old evangelistic hymns, Paddy

quietly slipped out and he spent his substantial contribution, which was to have been given to the collection, for some bitters at the hotel.

The hotel keepers could sell whiskey by the gallon or measure. Twenty cents a gallon was the usual price and it was customary for many of our pioneers to purchase whiskey for the harvest hands who moved westward with the ripening of the grain crops which began in the Paris area through South and North Dumfries and westward to the Huron Tract.

The threshing of our pioneer grain by horsepower was a step which improved the conditions under which grain was produced. It had its difficulties for one of our pioneers slipped on the driver's stand, fell into the gearing, and was injured so seriously, that he was a cripple for the rest of his life.

There were no cream separators in the early days. At Haysville there was a creamery where the milk produced by the dairy farmers was taken twice a day. It was set in high coolers and in springs of water and skimmed by hand. Butter was made from the cream; cheese from the skim milk. Our pioneers received about 65 cents a hundred for the whole milk when the expenses were paid.

Our pioneers were social people. It was surprising how many liked a bit of tobacco. The pipe was sometimes a family affair. One time Mrs. Tichbonne, an Irish pioneer of our district from Tyrone, Ireland, had just returned from the walk to Haysville where she did her shopping at the village store in the form of barter. As she came into her cabin, she said to her husband, "Be after lighting the pipe, Jimmy, for its dyin' I am for the want of a smoke."

If you drive up the Huron Road west of Haysville for about three miles you will arrive at St. James' Anglican Church and S.S. No. 5. You are quite welcome to visit the old church put together at various times. Go in, if you wish, for the key hangs on the west window where it has hung as long as I can remember. The memorial windows tell of some of our pioneers. I would suggest that you see the bell in the tower, which bell weighs a ton or more. It was bequeathed to the church by the late Samuel Mark. The cemetery is endowed. The income from some 2,000 dollars is used to keep the resting place of our pioneers as it should be kept.

May I mention that there are some places where the smaller rural residences used to be, but, having been moved, are lost to our recollection. There are several of which I know. Last summer I visited the spot where one house used to be. It was the home of a devoted woman who took care of her invalid sister and her crippled father. She taught school during the week and tended her household on Saturday. Naturally one would expect that Sunday would be a day of relaxation for her but instead, rain or shine, she would walk two miles to St. James' Anglican Church to teach her Sunday school class. As children we did not appreciate this and amongst ourselves would joke about the wee bonnet that she wore. Well, as we grew older we grew somewhat wiser and we now pay our respects to the good woman we found was more interested in sending a contribution to the missionaries of the Great Northwest than in fashions. When I passed where her little home used to be, though the house is gone, a Persian lilac and severel perennials held sway, as if to perpetuate her memory. Thus, I wish to pay my respect to the memory of the late Miss Margaret Allen.

I have brought with me a few specimens that I thought would be of interest to you. This is an ox bell which the pioneers (the Mitchells) put on the oxen when they went to browse. This bell was in use since 1834 and can be heard for miles. Mrs. Smith permitted me to take this ship candle. Someone told me some years ago that it was taken from a pirate boat. The candle stick has a spring in the cylinder and the weight keeps the light upright no matter how the ship rolls or goes sideways. This is the snuffer used to keep the candle clean.

Now I could tell too of the horse stealing organization, a protective association, of how our pioneers were sometimes swindled by the slick horse trader who would put off a horse in a trade known as a "swivelback" caused by the corduroy roads, of how Haysville grew no more when the Grand Trunk Railway was a reality through New Hamburg, of the market for wood which was used by the wood-burning locomotives, of how sorghum to produce sugar was introduced and failed as a sugar producer.

You might be interested in a document which is the original petition requesting the formation of S.S. No. 4, Wilmot. The petition is written on better paper than where the names are. The original petitioners are all gone. The descendants of one John Bean are residents of the community. His grandsons are pub-

lishers of the Waterloo Chronicle. There are some other materials which you might be interested in. This Italian iron has been useful in ironing our grandmothers' caps. The book was one used in our school and contains many lessons that are worth while.The one about the crow that came to the pitcher where there was only a little water but by putting in a few pebbles got a nice drink was considered good teaching. "Where there is a will there is a way."

We people of New Hamburg and environs would be glad to assist the officers of the Waterloo Historical Society in its research work. We should be pleased to find the organization interested in the beautification of rural cemeteries. The Chesterfield Cemetery is, in our opinion, one of the outstanding ones in Western Ontario.

We should like to suggest a revival of interest in the proposal to erect a memorial to Sir Adam Beck on the Baden Hill overlooking his birthplace. Such a memorial would not be without precedent. On Cardiff Hill in Hannibal, Missouri, admirers of the work of Mark Twain have erected a tower to his memory. There President Roosevelt lighted a fire which burns perpetually as a tribute to a great American. The Baden Hill is 1,400 feet above sea level. On that pinnacle should be erected some day a fitting memorial to a great Canadian.

Exhibits:

An ox bell hung about the neck of an ox when sent out to browse. It belonged to the Mitchell family and used in 1834.

A ship candle taken from a pirate boat. The candle stick has a spring in the cylinder and the weight keeps the light upright in storm. Also the snuffer.

Coins, samples of the first decimal currency in Canada, one cent pieces of 1858 and 1859. The 1858 piece is rare.

The original petition requesting the formation of S.S. No. 4, Wilmot. The original petitioners are al gone. John Bean was one of them. His grandsons are publishers of the Waterloo Chronicle.

An Italian iron used in ironing the caps of our grandmothers.

A book used in the early schools as a reader.

A bear-trap made by a pioneer blacksmith.

A guard of the first grass cutting machine manufactured by John Watson, Ayr.

A bullet mould.

A fire shovel.

Tallow candle moulds.

* * *

THE UNVEILING OF A PLAQUE TO WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL

Gerard Hess, A13A K-W Collegiate

On Tuesday, November 26th, the senior students assembled in the auditorium of the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School to do honour to a literary genius born in Kitchener. It was the occasion of the presentation of a plaque, donated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Bureau, in commemoration of William Wilfred Campbell, who through his poetic genius will be immortalized as one of Canada's greatest poets.

Mr. Fred Landon, president of the Historic Sites and Monuments Bureau, was introduced by one of his former pupils, now a teacher at the Collegiate, Mr. H. Partlow. The purpose for the founding of the bureau was briefly outlined by Mr. Landon. He explained, after the last war, Canada awakened to her possibilities, took pride in her achievements, and saw a need to commemorate deeds and places of historic value. Specific mention was made by Mr. Landon about Waterloo County, for its wealth of history, which Miss Mabel Dunham has so ably compiled in her novels.

During the ceremony of unveiling the plaque, Joan Hamm, a student of the school, recited one of William Wilfred Campbell's poignantly, beautiful poems, "How One Winter Came in the Lake Region." In these lines we catch a glimpse of the pulsating vibrant life so characteristic of his poetry:

> "That night I felt the winter in my veins,
> A joyous tremor of the icy glow;
> And woke to hear the north's wild vibrant strains."

Mr. Ziegler, our principal, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Landon for presenting the plaque to the school. He felt it

would be an inspiration to the students for many years to come.

Miss Dunham, writer, historian, former chief librarian of the Kitchener Library, and now president of the Waterloo County Historical Society, echoed Mr. Landon's suggestion to introduce young people to the Historical Societies. She pointed out that they will be the authors, artists, and poets of tomorrow, and with them rests the task of keeping sacred the memory of Canada's greatest sons. Miss Dunham introduced Dr. Carl Klinck, Dean of Waterloo College, the biographer of William Wilfred Campbell. He told us of the poet's birth in this city, in 1858, of his later life and writings in which he has immortalized Canada, particularly the "blue waters" of the Georgian Bay.

Another native son, the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, conveyed his pleasure at the recognition given William Wilfred Campbell's outstanding poetical contributions to world literature.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANADA

Ottawa,
November 22, 1946

Professor Carl F. Klinck,
Waterloo College,
Waterloo, Ontario.

Dear Professor Klinck:

I was delighted to learn that a plaque, prepared by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, is to be unveiled at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate on November the 25th. I thank you warmly for sending me a photograph of the plaque which reads:

William Wilfred Campbell
Canadian Poet
His verses revealed the beauty
of the Great Lakes, "The Magic
Region of Blue Waters"
Born in Berlin, (Kitchener) 1st June, 1858
Died near Ottawa, 1st January, 1918

It is fitting indeed that the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate should have on its walls some memorial commemorative of the

contribution made to Canadian literature by one who has brought so much in the way of honour and distinction to the community in which he was born.

I wish it might have been possible for the plaque to have given a more adequate description of Campbell's writings and their significance as a national contribution. His verses reveal not only the beauty of the Great Lakes, but in equal measure the sweep of mountain and plain, of sea and sky, which combine to create the mystic splendour of Canada's vast natural heritage. Campbell's verse reveals as well rare spiritual insight into the mysteries of life, and a patriotic fervor which has not been surpassed by any of our poets.

Of course, everything cannot find its place on a plaque, and I am glad that the Historic Sites and Monuments Board have thought so well of "The Magic Region of Blue Waters" as having an immediate association with Campbell's writings. As I listen to the November wind outside my casement windows, I think of the line "The Wild Witchery of the Winter Woods" as being equally suggestive of much that he wrote. But of all, I like best, "Beyond the Hills of Dream." Those words afford some slight glimpse of Campbell's philosophy, as well as of the source of his poetic genius. They are recorded in raised lettering on the memorial which marks the place of his burial. It is on the summit of a slope of ground which looks out upon the Laurentian Hills, that lend their note of "magic beauty" to Canada's capital.

Think, too, of these lines:

> "What is this glory Nature makes us
> feel? . . . . . .
> Yea! 'tis a greatness that about us lies
> . . . . . guiding men to God"

Campbell and I were close friends over many years. He was a delightful companion, a sterling citizen and a great patriot. We often talked of our having been born in the same town; though we did not come to know each other until after we were men. The remembrance of our friendship has been an abiding inspiration through the years.

As the plaque records, Campbell died at his home near Ottawa on the 1st of January, 1918. When I last saw him, it was a day or two before Christmas. We had planned to spend the first evening of the New Year together. Instead, a few days later, I helped to carry his remains to where they rest today. I like

to think of his name having the place of honour it will now have in our native town.

If you think that what I have written would be of interest to the assembled gathering on Monday afternoon, I should be very pleased to have you read this letter as a slight tribute to the memory of my friend on the occasion of the memorial being unveiled in his honour. I should be pleased, too, if you would convey my greetings and good wishes to Professor Landon, who will, I understand, be present on behalf of the board, and to Mr. Walter T. Ziegler, the principal of the Collegiate.

With warm personal regards to yourself,

Believe me
Yours very sincerely,
(Sgd.) W. L. Mackenzie King

* * *

H.M.C.S. KITCHENER

E. F. Donohoe

One of the outstanding stories of Kitchener's war contribution to the Second World War is that which winds around the great sea saga of the H.M.C.S. Kitchener, the corvette which emerged victoriously from many battles with German submarines on the high seas.

The Canadian Government named the ship after the city, as it named many other corvettes after Dominion communities. The city adopted the ship's crew and, through the efforts of the Local Council of Women, every possible comfort was provided the officers and ratings throughout its colorful and adventurous career.

The corvette was adopted by the city in 1941 and under the leadership of the late Mrs. G. A. Heather, the Local Council of Women took over the work of looking after the crew. The first money raised toward this objective was $100 from the Local Council of Women's treasury,

From the outset a committee of three was appointed to carry on the work. They were Mrs. L. O. Breithaupt, Mrs. McNeil and Mrs. D. S. Bowlby who served as convener. Mrs. McNeil resigned and was not replaced.

Letters were forwarded to business firms and prominent citizens asking for donations to outfit the crew with the essentials of sea comfort. In all $926.43 was subscribed.

Wool was purchased and made into useful articles for the men on the corvette. The committee spent $602.46 on woollen comforts. They listed as follows: Heavy turtle neck sweaters 61, caps 61, mitts 141 pairs, turtle neck tuckins 97, sleeveless sweaters 8, seaman's boot stockings 100 pairs, pairs of sox 472.

In addition the committee purchased for the ship an electric wash machine, two electric irons and two electric toasters. New books, chocolate bars and soap were presented.

Whenever the committee sent a bale of goods to the ship, many gifts were included from other organizations. One leather jerkin was provided for each man. Scarves, games, playing cards, cigarettes, gum and books were also among the numerous gifts from various groups and societies anxious to share in assisting the men of Corvette Kitchener.

Mrs. Breithaupt assumed the responsibility of gathering books and magazines. Her work was eminently successful both as to the number and the interesting character of the reading matter provided.

At the end of the war the Canadian Government decided to present to the City of Kitchener, the ship's bell as a memento of the interest and solicitude shown for the crew by its citizens throughout the terrible days and nights of combat.

Accordingly the bell was forwarded to Mrs. Bowlby, who subsequently presented it to Mayor Brown in an historic ceremony at the City Hall. Present for the occasion were Lieut.-Cmdr. J. F. Stewart of H.M.C.S. Star, Hamilton, and Lieut. James Brown, Windsor.

In making the presentation, Mrs. Bowlby expressed regret that Mrs. Heather had not been spared to see culminated the great work which she had started.

Ald. Gordon McK. Honsberger was chairman for the occasion. Miss E. Lillian Breithaupt, president, represented the Local Council of Women.

WILLIAM CLARK

Death removed one of Elmira's most highly respected and public-spirited citizens in the person of William Clark, barrister, who died suddenly on June 21, 1946.

Mr. Clark was born on a farm near the town of Port Elgin, Ont., in the year 1886. He attended public school in a country school close to his home, and later he was a student at the Owen Sound High School. He was a graduate of Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and also attended the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a veteran of the First Great War, having served with the Canadian Army, overseas. In religion he was a Presbyterian.

Mr. Clark came to Elmira in 1922, opening a law office, where he served the citizens of the town and surrounding country with untiring faithfulness. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he held the respect and confidence of the public. He was a member of the Elmira Horticultural Society, the Elmira Musical Society and the Elmira Board of Trade, of which organization he was secretary for a number of years, and up to the time of his death.

In 1928, he married Rose May Middleton of England, who survives him.

FREDERICK W. SNYDER

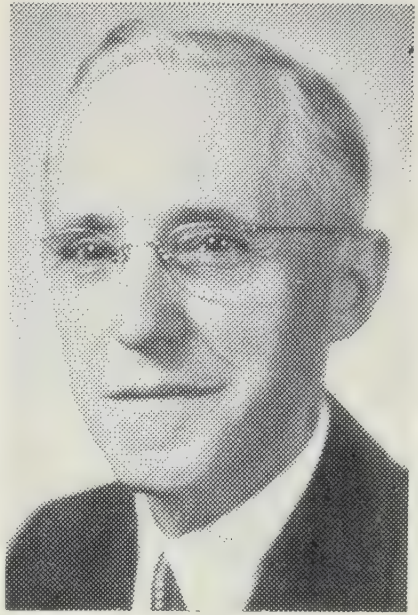
Frederick W. Snyder, vice-president and managing-director of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company passed away on March 28th, 1946.

He was the son of the late Frederick Snyder and his wife, Marie Riegelman, and was born in Kitchener on September 27th, 1881. He was well known in the insurance and financial fields. He had joined the staff of the company, in 1901 and became assistant secretary in 1910. In 1916 he became assistant manager and managing-director in 1933.

He was keenly interested in civic affairs and was an enthusiastic patron of sports.

Mr. Snyder was a member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Rotary Club, past president and director of the Westmount Golf and Country Club, a member of the Granite Club and of the Waterloo Historical Society.

Frederick W. Snyder



William John Motz

Rev. R. E. Knowles, B.A.

He was president of the Boy Scout Association, North Waterloo District. His interest in Scout work began with the group sponsored by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. His service was recognized last year when he was awarded the medal of merit.

Mr. Snyder was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Besides his wife he is survived by one son, Lieut. F. Harry Snyder, a brother, William Snyder, and four sisters, Mrs. W. H. Cutler, Mrs. D. S. Storey, Mrs. Arthur Jones and Miss Lena Snyder. A brother, Harry Snyder, made the supreme sacrifice in the First Great War.

WILLIAM JOHN MOTZ

William John Motz, president and publisher of the Kitchener Record, passed away on July 10th, 1946.

He was the son of the late John and Helen Motz and was born on September 9th, 1870.

He was educated in St. Mary's Separate School and St. Jerome's College. He was a graduate in arts of the University of Toronto and obtained his master's degree from St. Francis Xavier College in New York.

After a few years in teaching he joined his father in the firm of Rittinger and Motz Limited, publishers of the Berliner Journal, of which he became editor upon his father's death.

In 1918 Mr. Motz acquired an interest in the News Record which later absorbed the Daily Telegraph in 1922.

Mr. Motz was prominent among newspaper publishers and editors for a long period, having been president of the Canadian Daily Newspapers Association and of the Ontario Provincial Dailies Association of which he was one of the founders.

Mr. Motz was active in church, community and business affairs. He was a director of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company and of the Waterloo Trust and Savings Company.

He was a member of the Kitchener Chamber of Commerce, St. Mary's Church Council, Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, the Westmount Golf and Country Club, the Kitchener Library Board. He was chairman of St. Mary's Hospital Advisory Board from 1922 to 1938.

Mr. Motz was married on August 7th, 1901 to Rose Huck, who survives him. One son survives, John E. Motz, and four grandchildren.

REV. ROBERT E. KNOWLES, B.A.

Rev. Robert E. Knowles, B.A., former minister of Knox Presbyterian Church, Galt, and widely-known author, journalist and lecturer, died at Galt on November 15th, 1946, after a long illness. He was in his seventy-ninth year.

Mr. Knowles was a son of Rev. Robert Knowles of Bollymena, Ireland and Frances (Tyner) Knowles of Toronto. He was born at Maxwell, Grey County, March 30th, 1868. He received his academic education at Galt's famous Tassie School and at Queen's University, Kingston, from which institution he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1894. He studied theology at Manitoba College and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1891. He held only two pastorates, Stewarton Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, 1891-1898, and Knox Church, Galt for seventeen years, 1898-1915. By his energetic personality, his untiring devotion to home visitation and by his passionate eloquence in the pulpit he was able to build up the Galt church until it was the largest Presbyterian church in Canada.

Among the best known of his literary works are St. Cuthbert's, The Attic Guest, The Undertow, The Dawn of Shanty Bay, The Web of Time and The Singer of the Kootenay.

Because of his extensive travel in Europe and the United States he became a prominent lecturer. Two of his favorite subjects were "Secrets of Scottish Success" and "The Imperial and National Position of Canada." He was for many years a regular contributor to the Toronto Daily Star and was noted for his interviews with world celebrities including scientists, authors, sportsmen, stage stars, politicians, labor leaders and members of royalty and the peerage. To all his stories and interviews Mr. Knowles added the personal touch.

In politics he was a staunch Conservative. He was particularly interested in municipal government. In 1904 he declined the nomination as mayor of Galt and in 1910 he preached so powerful a sermon for the temperance cause, that local option was passed in Galt.

Among his recreations in the prime of life were golf and curling. He at one time was chaplain of the Ontario Curling Association. He was also a member of the Authors' Club of London, England. Since the formation of the United Church of Canada he had been a member of the First United Church, Galt.

He was twice married. Georgia Hogg of Galt, survives and also his daughter Elizabeth, Mrs. Rodman Guion of New Bern, N.C. An only son, Robert E. Knowles, served overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers and lost his life in England during the recent war. Two sisters, Miss Fanny Knowles of Toronto and Mrs. Julian Boyd of Simcoe also survive. Interment was made in Mount View Cemetery, Galt.